Reply.—This is being attended to even now. The provertikars whose work has been considerably lightened by the abolition of payment in kind and the reduction in the number of kist instalments will be asked to look after the planting of avenue trees also.

195. Desirability of removing the restrictions on elephant shooting.

Mr. H. D. Deane on behalf of Mr. H. M. Knight (Cardamom Planters' Association) said that elephants had of late become too numerous in the Cardamom Hills and the High Ranges, especially on the Periyar-Kumili road and near Mundakayam, and were causing several deaths and considerable damage to property. The member said he was not speaking from a sportsman's standpoint when he urged that the present restriction on the shooting of elephants might be removed in the interests of the people living in those tracts.

Reply.—Elephants are useful animals and valuable assets to the State. As such, their indiscriminate destruction cannot be permitted. Sometimes, even rewards are offered by Government for the shooting of rogue elephants. In regard to the localities specified, the attention of the Conservator will be drawn.

196. Geological and mineralogical survey of the State.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B.A., B.L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) said that it was highly necessary to organize a department for the geological and mineralogical survey of the State as early as practicable.

Reply.—This matter has been engaging the attention of Government. Two students who had been sent out for training in the Royal College of Science, London, have come back successful and are now receiving practical instruction in the Government of India Geological Department. When they return the subject will be taken in hand.

197. Protracted delay on the part of local officers in questions regarding the acquisition of lands by European bishops and clergymen in their names for the use of diocesan institutions.

This subject which stood in the name of *Mr. G. H. Gunther, (Catholic Indian Association, Trivandrum)* was withdrawn by him.

198. Recognition of promissory notes for paddy or cocoanuts as valid documents.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Krishnan Narayanan (*Ampalapuzha*) observed that in the northern taluks transactions were more in the produce of wet and garden lands than in money, but the courts had no law to recognise promissory notes for paddy or cocoanuts as valid instruments. He therefore requested that section 3 of Regulation II of 1075 might be amended so as to afford the relief now prayed for.

Reply.—The suggestion is opposed to the very definition of a promissory note. The Regulation cannot be modified. It is open to the parties to enter into a Kychit which the law recognizes.

199. Levy of toll on foreign carts entering Travancore.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore) spoke on the expediency of levying a toll on all foreign carts entering the State. It cost a large amount of money to maintain the present excellent public roads and an arrangement like the one proposed would bring in additional revenue to the Government which could be utilized for this and other purposes. In British India, similar tolls were being levied and even here the practice was abolished only some years ago. To the owners of carts within the State, passes might be given by provertikars for a year, and this would enable them to pass to and fro without being put to any expenditure or trouble.

Reply.—This is an important question and requires legislation.

200. Export of bones and oil-refuse.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore) urged that all possible efforts should be made for conserving the bones and oil-refuse of the State for the use of native agriculturists, instead of their being exported as at present to foreign countries free of charge. They formed excellent manure for wet lands, but could not be now easily obtained owing to competition from outside. These articles were being now converted into powders in other countries and by applying them to the soil in his wet lands he found that the quality of the rice was superior and the yield greater than before. The member showed specimens of the rice and rice-flour he had brought with him which, he said, was, the result of the experiments he made on his lands with these powders. He also suggested that an expert might be appointed for teaching the ryots of the State the use of these and other kinds of manure.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly